

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 216

By Haile

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the members of the
Old Union Church of Christ on the occasion of
their 185th anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should recognize
and pay tribute to those venerable religious institutions that are celebrating a significant
milestone in their history; and

WHEREAS, throughout its 185-year history, Old Union Church of Christ has proudly
served Sumner County by providing spiritual direction for its members and serving as a link to
join the halcyon past with the exciting future; and

WHEREAS, believed to be the first Church of Christ founded in Sumner County, Old
Union Church of Christ was organized on March 30, 1834; this historic congregation embarked
upon its spiritual journey with nine members, who referred to themselves as the "Electa Cyria";
and

WHEREAS, recordings of the church's earliest meetings reveal that the congregation
grew in steady number until the construction of their first church building in 1847; both black and
white members confessed faith in Christ as their Savior, were baptized, and became part of the
regular work and worship of the church, all while meeting together as a unified body of
believers; and

WHEREAS, during this time, church meetings took place in various locations east of
Gallatin and in Castalian Springs, including Sylvan Academy, Rural Academy, Hopewell, the
J.A. Mentlo Home, Hickory Grove, Wirt College, and "at the Springs"; and

WHEREAS, completed in 1847, the church building at Desha's Creek was centrally located among the original meeting places, which may have contributed to the congregation being referred to as "the Union"; and

WHEREAS, this building served the congregants until 1857, when it was sawed down in sections and relocated to the current meeting place on a hill overlooking Bledsoe Creek; and

WHEREAS, after being heavily used for nearly fifty years, this building was replaced by a new house of worship in 1894; at the first meeting held in the new building in April 1894, the topic of "God's Goodness" was preached to an assembly of more than 600, with the service being followed by "dinner on the grounds" and an announcement that no "begging would be done" as the cost of the building had already been paid; and

WHEREAS, from 1894 through the present, believers have gathered and God's Word has been proclaimed from the same location on the hill overlooking Bledsoe Creek, with various men serving the congregation as evangelists, preachers, elders, and deacons and many women providing immeasurable support for the Lord's Church; church members from the 19th century include Absalom Adams; John M. and Martha Anderson; Alexander Graham; Elizabeth McKent; J.A. Mentlo; Lavina, Polly, Henry, and Peter Hubbarb; John Gillespie; John Mulkey; Wilkinson C. Huffman; Albert and Polly Branham; Willie Bush; John Bush; Francis M. Carmack; Governor William Hall; Bushrod W. Thompson; David Chenault; and Joseph A. Harlan, and a partial listing of the most notable preachers who have contributed to the longevity of Old Union includes: B.F. Hall, John T. Johnson, David Lipscomb, E.A. Elam, G.C. Brewer, H. Leo Boles, Granville Lipscomb, E.G. Sewell, C.M. Pullias, and James A. Allen; and

WHEREAS, today, the members of Old Union Church of Christ continue to faithfully worship in the 1894 building with several additions; the distinguishing feature of rock veneer was added to the building's frame in 1959, yet Old Union is more significantly distinguished by the "Rock of Salvation," with Jesus the Christ being the chief cornerstone; and

WHEREAS, throughout their 185-year shared history, the members of the Old Union congregation have remained true to their original devotion of worshipping together as a church of Jesus Christ while providing comfort and guidance to those in need; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we join with the members of the Old Union Church of Christ in observing their 185th anniversary as a community of faith and extend to these fine people our best wishes for much continued success and fulfillment in performing the Lord's work.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.